

What is the Transit Development Plan (TDP)?

The City of Lincoln and StarTran are conducting a study of the way bus service operates in the City of Lincoln. This study will identify improvements to the bus system which will make it operate better throughout the community. The study is being done by the consulting team of Urbitran Associates, Inc., KFH Group, Inc., and AJM Consulting beginning in spring of 2006. Recommendations will be presented to the community at the end of the project.

There are five major steps in the Transit Development Plan or "TDP" process, as a study of this type is called. The first step is to look at how StarTran operates and to talk to members of the community about the bus system. During this month, the consulting team will be conducting public drop-in sessions at major service locations, we'll be talking with a number of community leaders about bus service, and meeting with StarTran and City employees. All of these meetings are designed to find out what you, the greater Lincoln community, like or dislike about StarTran and what changes you think the consulting team should be considering.

After completing this first step, the consulting team will analyze the service and will identify issues and opportunities that need to be addressed in the plan. The team will look at strengths and weaknesses in the system, and changes that might improve service.

From this step, the team will develop recommendations that will improve service. These recommendations could include route changes, hours of service adjustments, services to new areas, or other changes in how bus service is delivered throughout the area. All of the ideas which the consultants develop will be shared with local staff and the community to get reactions to them, and adjustments will be made before proceeding with the final plan.

The last step in the process is the development of the Transit Development Plan (TDP) itself.

This is a blueprint for planning and operating bus service in the next five to ten years. A TDP describes any recommended service changes, things that should stay the same, provides a financial plan, and identifies the benefits of the new service plan to the community. This plan will be ready sometime late this calendar year, and recommendations from it will be presented for approval to the sponsoring public agencies.

We look forward to hearing from many people in the community throughout the study, and to presenting a final plan which will improve bus service for the entire Lincoln area.